Lovely Strange Dark

ULTRABAROQUE DEPROGRAMMER

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CHAPTER 25

Scans & translations
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kk
k
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kk
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kk
k
whrr
whrr

สายลมปลุกตื่นกลางดึกกับเสียงเพลงที่ไม่คุ้นหู
CHAPTER 25 ● TELE-DEPROGRAM ⑥
เด็กน่ารำคาญ
HE WAS AT A LOSS FOR WHAT TO DO AFTER TAKAZAWA STOPPED TALKING, SO I CAME RIGHT OVER
Takazawa!?
Takazawa!?
...OH, YEAH...
...UM...
ANYWAY, SORACHAI CALLED ME
Have a seat
AND SAID SOMETHING ABOUT YOU DIVING INSIDE YOUR OWN MIND—
SORACHAI'S SINGING IT RIGHT NOW I'M SITTING NEXT TO HIM
HE SAID THIS IS THE SONG THAT WOKE TAKAZAWA UP

SO IT'S DIABLO
AND CALAVERA.

THAT'S AN ALIAS. I'LL NEVER GET USED TO IT.
JUST CALL HIM THE "DEPRO-GRAMMER".
AS IN, HIS JOB?

glance

I WONDER IF YUUZOU PULLED OFF THE DIVE OK?
MAYBE HE'LL GET TO MEET THE GUYS INSIDE THE DEPRO-GRAMMER

SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.
NO NEED TO BE SO FORMAL

SO, WHAT'S THE PLAN?
AS LONG AS I CAN BE OF ANY USE AT MY SKILL LEVEL, I'LL HELP YOU.
WE DOVE INTO OUR MIND TO SEE IF THE ENEMY WASHER LEFT ANY TRAPS OR CREATED AN ARTIFICIAL NEURO-CAVE.
IF WE CAN FIND AND DESTROY THEM, WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET BACK INTO FIGHTING SHAPE.
— AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I ASSUME THE DEPRO-GRAMMER'S THINKING
WE HAVEN'T REALLY TALKED ABOUT IT.
HIS MEMORY FOUNT SHOULD BE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE —
MEMORY FOUNT?
CRUNCH

NOTHING OVER HERE
LOOK AT THAT
ARE YOU GUYS MAYBE RELIGIOUS?
NO WAY THE DEPROGRAMMER'S RELIGIOUS CAN'T BE
HIS JOB IS TO BREAK DOWN THE BELIEFS THAT PEOPLE HOLD.
LIKE THE FOUNT OF A SPRING—
IT'S CREATING THE LAND-SCAPES WE SEE HERE IN THE MIND-SCAPE

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY ENOUGH, IT'S LIKE THIS ENTIRE MOUNTAIN IS MADE OF BONES.
IS IT SUPPOSED TO REPRESENT ALL THE PEOPLE THAT FAUX TAKAZAWA HAS DEPROGRAMMED?
CALL ME A NOVICE,
BUT THIS MINDSCAPE COULD BELONG TO A MASS-MURDERER
EXCUSE ME?

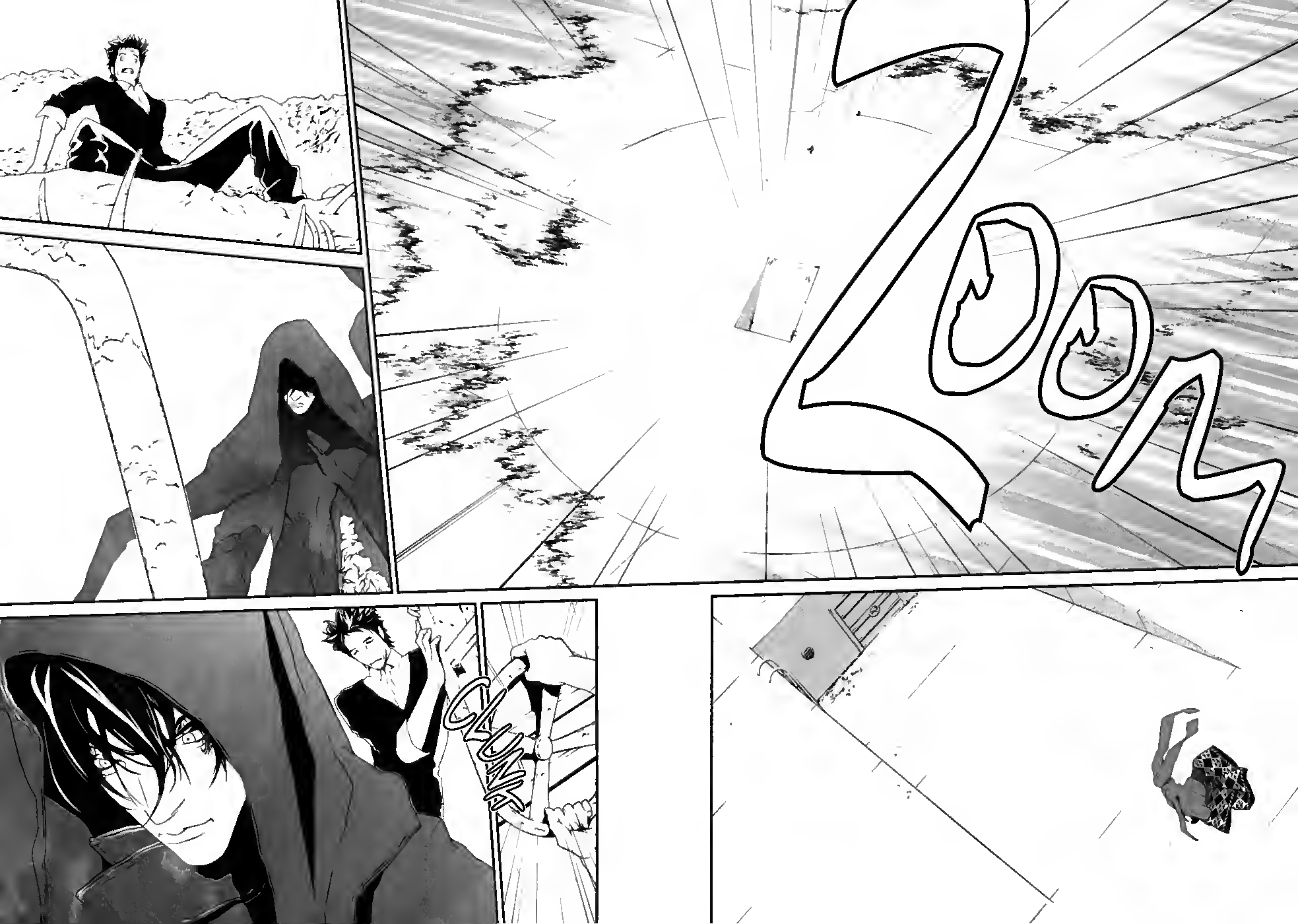
YEAH, IT'S THE SAME FOR LOTS OF THIRD-RATE WASHERS.
DII!
I CAN'T ACTUALLY DIVIDE MY REAL SELF FROM MY SELF INSIDE HERE
I'VE GOT MAYBE A QUARTER OF MY FOCUS ON MY REAL SELF. THE REST IS IN THIS WORLD.
AH—IT'S NOTHING.
LOOKS LIKE I CAN'T DIFFERENTIATE WHAT I SAY IN THE REAL WORLD AND HERE.
OH NO, HE'S GOT IT RIGHT
I'VE BEEN IMPRESSED BY YOU GUYS EVER SINCE I ARRIVED.
A TRUE PROFESSIONAL DEPROGRAMMER WHO CAN PARTITION HIMSELF SO COMPLETELY INTO THREE PARTS.
TO THE EXTENT WHERE YOU ALL HAVE NAMES.

IT'S CALAVERA AND DIABLO...!
WHAT WERE THEY? "LAYERS" AND "SILKIE"?
THAT JUST SLIPPED OUT
I NEVER REMEMBER FOREIGN NAMES, SO I THOUGHT I'D BASE IT OFF HOW YOU LOOK
THAT WAS ON PURPOSE.
SORACHAI CAN'T SING FOREVER WE NEED TO FIND THIS "MEMORY FOUNT" BEFORE TIME'S UP .
IS THERE SOME CLUE TO HELP US FIND IT?
I MEAN, I DON'T REALLY KNOW ANYTHING PERSONAL ABOUT FAUX TAKAZAWA
EVEN WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM

HIS PERSONAL MEMORIES WERE BURNT TO A CRISP.
HUH!? THEN WHAT HOPE DO WE HAVE?
Slide Slide
—OH
HE ALWAYS RUSHES AHEAD WITHOUT TELLING US ANYTHING!
Slide
Slide
I THOUGHT I'D TAKE A LITTLE BREAK.
SO, EMBROIDERY.
GLANCE

Slide
You really are calm.
WAIT, YOU ACTUALLY BROUGHT THAT WITH YOU?
EMBROIDERY!?
Kick Kick
Kick Kick
SEE
WHAT YOU MUST SEE.
"IF HE SAYS SOMETHING, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO MIRROR IT.
SO IT'S OK FOR ME TO REPEAT IT?"

OK
OK
SEE WHAT YOU MUST SEE.


CLUNK

THIS IS THE MEMORY FOUNT
THE SEA OF WORDS THAT THE DEPROGRAMMER WAS TRAPPED IN BEFORE HE WOKE UP
AH... WHAT!?
!
DII!

BUT COULD YOU TAKE CARE OF THE RICE BRAN FOR A BIT?
SORRY, YUUZOU,
Help
HAVE A GOOD TRIP
swish swish
? BACK ALREADY?
NO HESITATION AT ALL
YOU BROUGHT IT WITH YOU? WHY BRING RICE BRAN?
swish swish
RICE BRAN??
IT FEELS LIKE HE'S NOT AWAKE, RIGHT?
I WONDER IF HE'S REALLY HYPNOTIZED.

!
!
POL
D-DERRO-GRAMMER?
What now?
This is the reason that the mindscape we just went through was so empty.
It was a landscape made of memory debris
and wriggling corpses borne of negative emotions
YEAH, THEY'RE JUST WORDS
SHORN OF MEANING AND FORM, JUST STRINGS OF WORDS —

IT'S FILTERING THE MEMORIES.
THIS TOOK QUITE A BIT OF TIME AND SKILL TO CREATE.
I NEVER THOUGHT SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD'VE BEEN LEFT HERE ——
THIS IS PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO DO ON MY OWN.
SQUEEZE
I'LL HEAD BACK AND TELL OII THAT WE NEED TO DO THIS WITH A GROUP
OF TRUSTED DEPRO-GRAMMERS AT OUR SIDE ——
WHAT'S THIS!?

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO DESTROY IT
DIABLO'S THE ONE WHO DECIDES WHAT TO DO.
THE TWO OF US HAVE NO SAY. THERE'S NO POINT IN TALKING ABOUT IT.
GET BACK TO YOUR OWN JOB.
Whrrr
Whrrr
!!
IT LOOKS STRONG, BUT IT'S NOT. NOT REALLY
DON'T!
WHAT RE YOU HESITATING FOR? NOW YOU KNOW THE CAUSE
!
I'VE BEEN TAGGING BEHIND YOU FOR A LITTLE WHILE NOW.
WHY ARE YOU HERE!?

ROOM
STAY CLEAR OF THAT DEPRO-GRAMMER
WHO'S WITH YOU NOW.
I'VE GOT A CLEAR HEAD NOW.
HOW ABOUT YOU?
SORACHAI, PLEASE GET BACK TO YOUR STUDIES.
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING WHEN I LEFT THIS MORNING,
BUT I'LL BE GONE FOR A BIT.
AND LISTEN TO ME...
PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE BEEP.
AH, THIS IS CHIKA.
AFTER I DESTROY THIS, I'LL BE ONE STEP CLOSER TO MY FORMER SELF
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE HERE
YOU WON'T JUST WIND UP A CRIPPLE IN REAL LIFE!
YOU'LL DIE!

THIS WHOLE DISASTER IS *HIS* FAULT.